long and whether any compensation has been arranged for the families. If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, the details are not available with us. We are in touch with the Canadian authorities. We will make it know after some time.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): Mr Chairman, Sir, this was a private company. The Canadian authorities say that it is not for the Canadian authorities to pay the compensation or for the Singapore authorities. We shall take up the matter with the private company for the compensation of these 30 people.

SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Of course, the company is a private company, but the nationals are Indians. When 30 people are supposed to be missing, I wanted to know whether say inquiry commission has been constituted for this. If so, what are the details?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: No, we cannot hold any inquiry because the ship was not Indian, nor the territory was Indian. But we are in constant touch with our Consulate in Canada and also we are in touch with the Canadian authorities and every care is being taken that we should be able to get proper compensation from the company concerned.

डा० रत्नाकर पांण्डेय: माननीय सभापति जी, जो बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों के जहाज हैं, युद्धक विमान है उनमें पेट्रोलिंग की गयी है. उस संबंध में सारे देश में व्यापक चर्चा है । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री जी से कि ऐसे कौन से विमान थे जो युद्ध में प्रयोग किये गये और उनको..।

श्री सभापति : क्या पूछ रहे हैं? अभी होली दूर है बनारस वालों के लिये ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन् मेरी एक विनती है कि प्रश्न-63 और 67 लगभग एक जैसा ही है, तो उनको क्लब कर दिया जाये । (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : दोनों इकट्ठे ले लीजिये, 67 का भी जवाब पढ़ दीजिये ।

Iraqi Government's protest on refuelling of U.S. war ships and planes in India

*63. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:†
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Iraqi Government's protest to our policy of refuelling of U.S. war ships and planes at various ports/airports in the country;

(b) whether in the past such refuelling was permitted; if so, by whom and when; and

(c) whether it is a fact that refuelling has adversely affected our mediatory role and that our Prime Minister lost contact with President Saddam Hussein because of our policy; whether this step has compromised our non-aligned policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Government have noted the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq. We have clarified to the Iraqi authorities that Government had given permission solely for the transit and refuelling of transport aircraft on a clear assurance from the US Government that the planes would be used only for transporting non-lethal supplies and for evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, emergency and medical grounds.

(b) In keeping with common international practice, the Government of India allows transit and refuelling facilities for foreign military aircraft on a bilateral basis and in keeping with the principle of reciprocity.

(c) No, Sir. Grant of these facilities has in no manner compromised our position on the Gulf issue or our standing as a non-aligned State.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chimanbhai Mehta.